

# AHPC MINUTES 12/2/2020

AHPC Meeting Minutes December 2, 2020 7:30-9:00

Present: Alessa, Jim, Hannah, Doreen, Catie, Mark, Milan, Jessie

1. Review of minutes from October 21 and November 4. Doreen motioned for approval, Alessa seconded. Unanimous approval.

2. Jim volunteered to be secretary for December and January.

3. Arts update. Doreen mentioned that we have an arts meeting scheduled for December 11 from 12- 1:00. Jessie voiced concerns about the fact that those on the committee who lean towards the arts end of things find themselves meeting twice a month (once in our regularly scheduled meetings, and once in a kind of informal arts sub-committee). This has been an ongoing discussion, as there is kind of a dual nature to this committee, and for the past many months, historical preservation has taken up the vast majority of our time/energy/oxygen. It was determined that a conversation needs to happen as to whether “arts” and “historical preservation” needs to ultimately be two different committees. There was much discussion, and Hannah is putting this on the agenda for our January meeting so that we can give the subject our full attention.

4. Finalize and vote to accept or reject any complete historic property forms. Alessa and Catherine added new language to all of the forms related to “Sylvan Site”. The new language, for all of the homes in this sub-division includes a fleshed-out description of Frederick Hinkley’s vision and work in establishing the Sylvan Site neighborhood. We looked at examples of Alessa’s finished forms for all of the relevant houses on Adelbert, Clifford, Richards, and Sawyer. After much discussion and gaping in awe at Alessa’s accomplishments, the committee voted unanimously to accept all of the completed home forms for Sylvan Site houses on the above-named streets. Awesome work Alessa!

5. Identify 2021 Goals.

Catie would like to look for South Portland spaces that may have been established by overlooked populations (indigenous people, African Americans, etc.). Often places of this sort are passed over in official histories of municipalities. Doreen suggested that Mary DeRose might be a good resource for this.

Doreen would like to continue the list of historical properties, and to find a way to be budgeted for next year—specifically to find money targeted for a qualified firm/individual to provide input on historical properties. This committee will need to go to council with properties that we have flagged so that we can present our rationale for hiring an architectural expert.

Hannah would like to see “Lights on Broadway” up and running for the 2021 holiday season.

Doreen would like to see the kiosk completed.

Jessie, with much support from others, would like to see more murals in South Portland.

Alessa suggested that walking tours would be a good tool for getting people connected to and interested in their neighborhoods.

Alessa would be interested in looking into a “Museum in the Street” program, similar to that in Hallowell and other Maine towns. This would be a budgeted item.

Mark pointed out that generally we just need to engage with the public more.

Jim would like to see this committee advocating for arts at the new middle school. A percentage for the arts will likely be attached to the school building budget, and we need to ensure that it is put to use for the arts, and not siphoned into obscure and hidden architectural minutiae.

Jessie would like to see more funding for the arts, and this could be tied into identifying sites for murals.

Catie suggested that there are some good opportunities for intersections between historical tours and arts in the community.

Alessa suggested that temporary “pop-up” art could be exciting and relevant.

6. Next meeting is January 6. Hannah suggested that a change of officers is in order. The Arts/Historical Preservation balance will be a primary topic for discussion. We will go over the above goals and prioritize.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Submitted by Jim Flahaven